

Rotary Club Expands To East, West Coasts of U. S.

(This is the second in a series of articles on the Rotary Club, telling how the group extended from its beginnings in Chicago to the east and west coasts of the United States). It was during the latter part of 1903 that thoughts of Rotary's eventual expansion to other cities were first expressed. In writing about this period, Paul Harris said: "In the beginning of Rotary's renaissance, there was little to justify fond hopes and ambitions, but the one element of all substantial achievement in all fields of human endeavor was present—and that was faith."

In 1907, Paul Harris was elected president of the Rotary Club of Chicago. It was during his term as president that he first stated his hopes to see Rotary clubs in every important city of the United States.

It was also in 1907 that the Rotary Club's first public service was undertaken in an effort to broaden its activities by including definite work for the welfare of the community. This initial project consisted in the establishment of public comfort stations in Chicago's City Hall.

In 1908, Rotary reached the West Coast of the United States with the organization of Club No. Two in San Francisco, by Homer Wood, a San Francisco attorney who became interested in the idea for the Club through Chicago Rotarian, Manuel Muma, who was in San Francisco in business.

During this year Chesley R.

Perry, who later became General Secretary of Rotary International and served in that capacity for 32 years, joined the Chicago club.

Soon after the organization of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, Homer Wood interested some of his friends in Oakland, Calif., with the result that Club No. Three was organized there in February. To Oakland belongs the distinction of being the first Rotary Club to hold regular weekly luncheon meetings.

One of Homer Wood's enthusiastic Rotary associates in San Francisco was Arthur Holman, branch manager of the Travelers' Insurance Company. Club No. Four was organized in Seattle, Wash., early in June through the efforts of Roy Denny, whom Holman had interested in Rotary.

Jerry Muma, the Los Angeles manager of the Travelers' Insurance Company and friend of Arthur Holman, and Walter Wood, a Los Angeles attorney and brother of Homer Wood, organized Club No. Five in Los Angeles late in June.

Start New York Group
Fred Tweed, a member of the Chicago club, went to New York at the request of Paul Harris to organize a Rotary Club there. He got together with Dan Cady, Elmer DePue and Bradford Bullock, and organized Club No. Six in August. Thus, a part of Paul Harris' dream of Rotary extensions was fulfilled and Rotary became transcontinental.

In December, Club No. Seven was organized in Boston, Mass. Edward L. Holman of Boston had attended a meeting of the Rotary Club of Chicago and, impressed with that club, took the initiative with his friends John C. Fennely and Frank M. Carroll in organizing the Rotary Club of Boston.

Coast Starts Something
Prior to the organization of clubs on the West Coast the extension of Rotary was viewed with some doubts by several members of the Chicago club. But the developments on the West Coast changed skepticism to enthusiasm. In writing about this favorable turn of events, Harris said:

"The state of mind both outside and inside the membership was 'show me.' The Pacific Coast epidemic did that very thing. St. Louis, Kansas City, New Orleans, Lincoln, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Tacoma, Detroit and other cities, both east and west, began to think there might be something worthwhile in the movement. One after another, they were granted charters and there were a tidy 16 to assemble at the first Convention in 1910.

National to International
During the first seven months of 1910, nine more Rotary clubs were organized—at Tacoma, Wash.; Minneapolis, and St. Paul, Minn.; St. Louis, and Kansas City, Mo.; New Orleans, La.; Lincoln, Neb.; Portland, Ore.; and Detroit, Mich.



FOXY FRIEND . . . When the E. J. DeZorzi, former Torrance residents, visited the Ray Sleppeys, 1755 Santa Fe Ave. recently, the life of the party was the DeZorzi pet—a baby fox—shown being cuddled above by Virginia Rae Sleppey, 5. The fox, named "Beau," is four months old and as tame as a puppy. Notice the long tail and nose to match. Whether the fox will revert to its wild state when older is a matter for debate, but right now it's almost human and lives on a diet of cheese and milk.

Chesley R. Perry of Chicago as the presiding officer. The 29 Rotarian delegates in attendance represented 14 of the existing Rotary clubs. The National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized at this convention with a membership of 16 clubs

and approximately 1500 Rotarians. A constitution was adopted and the principles of the Rotary organization were outlined in five objectives.

1. To organize new clubs.
2. To promote the common good of all clubs.
3. To encourage civic pride and loyalty.
4. To promote honorable business methods.
5. To advance the business interests of the individual members.

Paul Harris was elected president of the new organization and Chesley Perry was elected secretary. Rotary Headquarters were established in the secretary's own office in the Calumet Building in Chicago.

Before the end of the year, eight more clubs were organized, including one in Winnipeg, Canada. Thus, the year 1910 marked not only the organization of the various Rotary clubs as a united body, but also the first crossing of the first national boundary line.

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